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FIVE HOURS ON HOT SEAT FOR CASEY

WASHINGTON — Embattled CIA director William Casey was grilled for more than five hours yesterday behind closed doors by Irancon probers.

Following the questioning, one House member charged that there were "serious errors of judgment" by CIA officials.

Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee said Casey denied knowing that Iranian arms sales funds were diverted to the Nicaraguan contras until he was told by Attorney General Edwin Meese on Nov. 25.

That contradicts published reports that Casey had learned of the contra connection through CIA sources at least one month

By NILES LATHAM,
ELI TEIBER &
RACHEL FLICK

earlier.

After emerging from the hearing room, Casey would say only: "I testified for five and a half hours. I'm not going to elaborate now."

Other members said Casey provided "a whole new cast of characters" in the scandal and "new areas that bear review."

Committee chairman Dante Fascell (D-Fla.) said Casey told an "extraordinary story" that "needs to be made public in its entirety as rapidly as possible."

Rep. William Broomfield (R-Mich.) said "there have been

serious errors of judgment by senior CIA personnel" that should lead to staff shakeups. He did not elaborate.

In other Irancon developments:

● Congressional sources revealed that the U.S. sent Anglican envoy Terry Waite last December to pressure Kuwait to release 17 terrorists imprisoned for attempting to bomb the U.S. embassy there.

Kuwait refused to negotiate with Waite.

● NBC News reported that ousted national security aide Oliver North was the prime adviser to a \$5 million advertising campaign that attacked anti-contra members of Congress.

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